



Senate

General Assembly

File No. 56

January Session, 2007

Senate Bill No. 140

Senate, March 15, 2007

The Committee on General Law reported through SEN. COLAPIETRO of the 31st Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING MASSAGE THERAPY.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 20-206b of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2008*):

3 (a) No person shall engage in the practice of massage therapy unless
4 the person has obtained a license from the department pursuant to this
5 section. Each person seeking licensure as a massage therapist shall
6 make application on forms prescribed by the department, pay an
7 application fee of three hundred dollars and present to the department
8 satisfactory evidence that the applicant: (1) Has graduated from a
9 school of massage therapy offering a course of study of not less than
10 five hundred classroom hours, with the instructor present, and, at the
11 time of the applicant's graduation, was either (A) accredited by an
12 agency recognized by the United States Department of Education or by
13 a state board of postsecondary technical trade and business schools, or
14 (B) accredited by the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation,
15 and (2) has passed the National Certification Examination for

16 Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. Passing scores on the
17 examination shall be prescribed by the department.

18 (b) Licenses shall be renewed once every two years in accordance
19 with the provisions of section 19a-88. The fee for renewal shall be two
20 hundred dollars. No license shall be issued under this section to any
21 applicant against whom professional disciplinary action is pending or
22 who is the subject of an unresolved complaint in this or any other state
23 or jurisdiction. Any certificate granted by the department prior to June
24 1, 1993, shall be deemed a valid license permitting continuance of
25 profession subject to the provisions of this chapter.

26 (c) (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this
27 section, the department may issue a license to an applicant whose
28 school of massage therapy does not satisfy the requirement of
29 subparagraph (A) or (B) of subdivision (1) of said subsection (a),
30 provided the school held, at the time of the applicant's graduation, a
31 certificate issued by the Commissioner of Education pursuant to
32 section 10-7b and provided the applicant graduated within thirty-three
33 months of the date said school first offered the curriculum completed
34 by the applicant. No license shall be issued under this subsection to a
35 graduate of a school that fails to apply for and obtain accreditation by
36 (1) an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department
37 of Education, or (2) the Commission on Massage Therapy
38 Accreditation within thirty-three months of the date said school first
39 offered the curriculum.

40 (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section
41 and subdivision (1) of this subsection, the department may issue a
42 license to an applicant who submits evidence satisfactory to the
43 commissioner that the applicant (A) was enrolled, on or before July 1,
44 2005, in a school of massage therapy that was approved or accredited
45 by a state board of postsecondary technical trade and business schools
46 or a state agency recognized as such state's board of postsecondary
47 technical trade and business schools, (B) graduated from a school of
48 massage therapy with a course of study of not less than five hundred

49 classroom hours, with the instructor present, that at the time of the
50 applicant's graduation was approved or accredited by a state board of
51 postsecondary technical trade and business schools or a state agency
52 recognized as such state's board of postsecondary technical trade and
53 business schools, and (C) has passed the National Certification
54 Examination for Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork. Passing scores
55 on the examination shall be prescribed by the department.

56 (d) Each person licensed pursuant to this section has an affirmative
57 duty to make a written referral to a licensed healing arts practitioner,
58 as defined in section 20-1, of any client who has any physical or
59 medical condition that would constitute a contraindication for massage
60 therapy or that may require evaluation or treatment beyond the scope
61 of massage therapy.

62 (e) No person shall use the title "Connecticut licensed massage
63 therapist" or "massage therapist" unless the person holds a license
64 issued in accordance with this section.

65 (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section,
66 the commissioner may issue a license to an out-of-state applicant who
67 submits evidence satisfactory to the commissioner of either: (1) (A) A
68 current license to practice therapeutic massage from another state or
69 jurisdiction, (B) documentation of practice for at least one year
70 immediately preceding application, and (C) successful completion of
71 the National Certification Examination for Therapeutic Massage and
72 Bodywork; or (2) (A) graduation from a school of massage therapy
73 offering a course of study of not less than five hundred classroom
74 hours, with the instructor present, and, at the time of the applicant's
75 graduation, was either (i) accredited by an agency recognized by the
76 United States Department of Education or by a state board of
77 postsecondary technical trade and business schools, or (ii) accredited
78 by the Commission on Massage Therapy Accreditation, and (B)
79 successful completion of the National Certification Examination for
80 Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>January 1, 2008</i>	20-206b
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GL *Joint Favorable*

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 08 \$	FY 09 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

No fiscal impact is anticipated in response to enactment of this bill.

The Out Years

State Impact:

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 10 \$	FY 11 \$	FY 12 \$
Public Health, Dept.	GF - None	None	None	None

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

OLR Bill Analysis**SB 140*****AN ACT CONCERNING MASSAGE THERAPY*****SUMMARY:**

This bill prohibits anyone other than a licensed massage therapist from using the title "massage therapist." The law already prohibits anyone other than a licensed massage therapist from using the title "Connecticut licensed massage therapist."

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2008

BACKGROUND***Massage Therapy***

The law defines "massage therapy" as the systematic and scientific manipulation and treatment of the soft tissues of the body by use of pressure, friction, stroking, percussion, kneading, vibration by manual or mechanical means, range of motion, and nonspecific stretching. It may include using oil, ice, or hot and cold packs, or tub, shower, steam, dry heat, or cabinet baths. It does not include diagnosis, prescribing drugs or medicines, spinal or joint manipulations, or any service or procedure for which a license to practice medicine, chiropractic, natureopathy, physical therapy, or podiatry is required.

COMMITTEE ACTION

General Law Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 19 Nay 0 (03/06/2007)